

Message Text

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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006774

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: PFOR, EFIS, IC, UK, NATO

SUBJECT: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE: NATO COUNCIL SESSION

REFS: (A) STATE 6730

(B) REYKJAVIK 53

(C) REYKJAVIK 54

1. IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS OUTLINED REFTELS B AND C, AS WELL AS MORE CURRENT INFORMATION FROM ICELANDIC EMBASSY THAT ICELAND NOW PLANS TO CALL SIMULTANEOUSLY FOR BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UK AND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ICELAND'S PERMREP FROM ANY MEETING OF NATO ATTENDED BY UK, DEPARTMENT NOW WISHES TO ADD TO INSTRUCTIONS SENT REFTEL A. ALTHOUGH US POLICY HAS BEEN TO STAY OUT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE, WE HAVE, IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH ICELANDIC AND BRITISH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTA-
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TIVES, BEEN MAKING A LOW-KEY DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE

IMPORTANCE THAT THIS ISSUE HAS FOR ICELAND AND THE IMPORTANCE IT HAS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM. IN OUR ASSESSMENT, USING THIS DISTINCTION AT THE JANUARY 12 MEETING MIGHT HELP IN EFFORTS TO FORESTALL DRASTIC ICELANDIC ACTION.

2. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE ADD TO THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL A THE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS THE ICELANDIC CONTRIBUTION TO NATO OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. THE BASE FACILITIES LOCATED IN ICELAND NOT ONLY HELP TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THAT COUNTRY BUT THEY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECURITY OF ALL THE NATO ALLIES REPRESENTED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING; B) THE UNITED STATES IS WELL AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE FOR GREAT BRITAIN OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THIS DISPUTE, BUT WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE VITAL IMPORTANCE THAT THEY REPRESENT FOR ICELAND AND FOR ICELAND'S ECONOMY. (THE KEY WORD IN THE PRECEEDING SENTENCE IS VITAL.)

3. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO TELL THE BRITISH DELEGATE INFORMALLY BEFORE THE MEETING THAT WE HOPE THAT THE BRITISH WILL NOT DWELL AT LENGTH AT THE MEETING ON JUSTIFYING THE ACTIONS OF THEIR PROTECTION VESSELS IN THE DISPUTED AREA AS WE FEEL THAT THIS WOULD DO NOTHING TO CALM THE SITUATION.

4. FYI. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, YOU MIGHT WISH TO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS TO URGE THE ICELANDERS IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS AND IN THE

SESSION TO AVOID A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OR OTHER IRREVOCABLE STEPS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THEIR INVITATION FOR LUNS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN REYKJAVIK. IN OUR JUDGEMENT, THE SOONER THAT LUNS CAN INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THE ISSUE THE BETTER. END FYI. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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